

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 4078

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

9 June 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Urgent suspected cancer (USC) MRI.

- 1. What is the trust target time for an urgent suspected cancer (USC) referral for an MRI scan?*
- 2. If question 1 does not apply, what is the trust target time for a USC referral to have a diagnostic test/report?*
- 3. How many of the referrals from questions 1 and 2 have failed to meet these targets in the year 1/4/16 - 1/4/17? If the data is available please may I have the amount who have not met the MRI waiting time? If that data is unavailable may I have the amount that have failed to meet the target time for a USC referral to a diagnostic test/report?*
- 4. Is there a financial penalty if either above target is not met? If so what is this penalty?*

1. There is no nationally mandated target for this.
2. There is no nationally mandated target for a diagnostic test/report for a suspected cancer referral specifically. If the tumour site specific pathway includes a diagnostic test as the first seen appointment, this will have to meet the Cancer Waiting Time target of a maximum of 14 days from referral to first seen appointment (i.e. performing the test, not necessarily having it reported).
3. The Trust's performance against the 14 day referral to first seen standard under the Cancer Waiting Times targets is reported publically on the NHS England website (this is for all first seen appointments and is not necessarily a diagnostic test but more likely an outpatient clinic appointment) (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/cancer-waiting-times/monthly-prov-cwt/>)
4. Technically there is a financial penalty for each patient that does not meet the standard below the target of 93%. However, provider organisations that have agreed their financial control totals with NHS Improvement are not subject to these penalties.

If you have any queries about this letter please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write in the first instance to:

Mr Glenn Douglas
Chief Executive
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent ME16 9QQ

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the Information Commission cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Chief Executive's Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Gail Spinks
Head of Information Governance

